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<p>(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR A RADIO REMOTE REPEATER IN A DIGITAL CELLULAR RADIO COMMUNICATION SYSTEM</p> <div data-bbox="440 1136 1214 1661"> </div> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>A digital cellular radio communication system having a remote repeater is provided. The communication system includes a central communication site (106) which transmits and receives signals in a first radio channel assigned according to a cellular communication system channel reuse plan, transmits signals to and receives signals from a cellular communication network unit, and digitally processes received signals for subsequent transmission in the first radio channel or to the cellular communication network unit. The communication system further includes a remote communication site (124), substantially remotely located from the central communication site (108), which receives a signal in either the first radio channel or a second radio channel assigned according to the cellular communication system channel reuse plan, shifts the received signal between the first and the second radio channels, and transmits the shifted signal in the other of the first and the second radio channels.</p>		

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**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR A RADIO REMOTE
REPEATER IN A DIGITAL CELLULAR RADIO
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

5

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to cellular radio communication systems and, more particularly, to a method and apparatus for using
10 radio remote repeater mechanisms in a digital cellular radio communication system.

Background of the Invention

15 Cellular radio communication systems typically include a number of central communication base sites. Each central communication site has a service area coverage for servicing mobile communication units within the service area. The service areas typically are arranged such that adjacent remote base site service coverage areas overlap in a
20 manner that provides a substantially continuous service region. The substantially continuous service region provides uninterrupted service by handing off mobile communication units from one base site serving a service area to an adjacent base site serving another service area.

25 Communication between the central communication sites and mobile communication units typically occurs on a pair of frequency

channels (i.e., transmit and receive frequencies) assigned according to a cellular communication system channel reuse plan. Upon activation, a mobile communication unit searches a radio frequency spectrum for control signal transmissions from a local central communication site.

5 The control signal transmissions from the local communication site are found in a radio frequency broadcast control channel (BCCH). The BCCH contains specific information needed by the mobile communication unit in order to format and code radio communication system access requests to the local central communication site. The
10 Group Special Mobile (GSM) Pan-European cellular communication system, as specified in GSM recommendations by Motorola available from the European Telecommunication Standards Institute (ETSI) and incorporated herein by reference, is an example of a system using such a format including the BCCH.

15 On the BCCH many control transmissions are transmitted including timing information, a local central communication site ID for the central communication site which is transmitting the information, format information for specifying the format of transmit access requests, and may further include in some environments information identifying
20 frequencies on which to transmit such access requests. In addition, the formatting information may further identify the communication system as a time division multiple access (TDMA) system and may identify a time slot in which to transmit an access request.

The mobile communication unit upon detecting and decoding
25 information received on a BCCH subsequently transmits an access request to a local central communication site. The local central communication site, upon receiving the access request from the mobile communication unit subsequently responds by transmitting a signal directed to the mobile communication unit which identifies a resource
30 which it can use for communication with the local central communication site.

To limit noise in cellular communication systems due to communication between other mobile communication units in other nearby service areas serviced by other central communication sites as
35 well as increase the capacity of the cellular communication system, reuse of the available, but limited number of communication resources is done within a service region of the cellular communication system. To

ensure that the reuse of communication resources does not cause unacceptable noise in the communication channel, central communication sites which are allocated the same communication resources are geographically separated. By having sufficient
5 geographic separation, the noise in the communication channel is limited. However, the geographic separation needs to ensure an adequate signal to noise ratio (negligible noise in the communication channel) limits the capacity of the communication system because not all of the available communication resources may be used in each
10 service area.

To enhance the efficiency of communication resource reuse and to improve capacity of the cellular communication system, service areas of central communication sites can be divided into sectors, wherein each sector a percentage of the available communication resources,
15 (i.e., communication channels). By having the service area divided into sectors, the required geographic separation may be reduced while maintaining an adequate signal to noise ratio. For example, U.S. Patent Number 4,128,740, assigned to Motorola, Inc. discloses a four cell (service area) - six sector communication resource reuse pattern. As
20 disclosed, each cell is divided into six sectors and each sector contains approximately 1/24th of the available communication resources. For every four cell sites, the communication resource pattern is repeated. This communication resource reuse pattern may be further reduced to a 1 cell site reuse pattern as disclosed in pending U.S. Patent application
25 07/459,624 which was filed January 2, 1990, and also assigned to Motorola, Inc. It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art many other reuse patterns exist for use in cellular communication systems including but not limited to 3, 7, 21, 49, 63, 91 site reuse patterns.

After allocating a communication resource for use by the mobile
30 communication unit, the local central communication site typically allocates a transceiver typically located at the local central communication site to service any subsequent communication with the mobile communication unit on the assigned communication channel resource. The transceiver of the central communication site will
35 subsequently route the communications of the mobile communication unit to a target communication unit. The target communication unit maybe either another mobile communication unit within the same

service area, a mobile communication unit in another service area, or a subscriber on the public switched telephone network (PSTN).

5 High density cellular communication systems with sufficient spectrum can serve a large number of users in an urban environment by using microcells which service a small geographic area. However, in lower user density like rural or suburban areas, higher signal propagation losses and high infrastructure costs severely limit the economic viability of such communication systems. Since providing service coverage to rural, suburban and urban environments alike is
10 crucial in establishing a complete cellular service, the need for a less costly means of deploying a cellular communication system is large.

Another consideration is that due to increasing competition for frequency spectrum, the service coverage areas of central communication sites may have to be reduced to allow for frequency reuse in a relatively close proximity. Reducing the service coverage
15 area of a central communication site, on the other hand, increases the number of central communication sites necessary to cover a given geographic area. Therefore, it is desirable to minimize the cost of the individual central communication sites equipment so that the overall
20 cost of the cellular communication system can be reduced.

Summary of the Invention

25 The present invention overcomes the above-mentioned communication system cost problems by effectively trading radio frequency spectrum, which is typically abundant in low communication traffic density areas, for a less expensive way to serve a larger geographic area. In addition, the present invention can be used in microcellular applications as a substitute for wireline connections
30 between cell site controllers provided sufficient radio spectrum is available. The present invention provides a digital cellular radio communication system having a remote repeater and a central communication site. The central communication site transmits and receives signals in a first radio channel assigned according to a cellular
35 communication system channel reuse plan, transmits signals to and receives signals from a cellular communication network unit, and digitally processes received signals for subsequent transmission in the

first radio channel or to the cellular communication network unit. The remote repeater (i.e., remote communication site), which is substantially remotely located from the central communication site, receives a signal in either the first radio channel or a second radio channel assigned according to the cellular communication system channel reuse plan, channel shifts the received signal between the first and the second radio channels, and transmits the shifted signal in the other of the first and the second radio channels.

As a result of this configuration of the communication system, the hardware and software needs of the remote communication sites are less than the central communication sites because the remote communication site does not need to have a mechanism for communicating with the cellular communication network unit or a mechanism for digitally processing received signals. Therefore, the monetary cost of a the remote communication sites is reduced and as such the overall cost of the communication system can be reduced by using these less expensive remote communication sites in conjunction with central communication sites in low communication traffic density areas.

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIGs. 1-1, 1-2 are diagrams showing preferred embodiment digital cellular radio communication systems.

FIGs. 2-1, 2-2 are diagrams showing preferred embodiment central communication sites.

FIGs. 3-1, 3-2 are diagrams showing preferred embodiment remote communication sites.

FIGs. 4-1, 4-2 show flowcharts of how a signal travels from a cellular communication network unit to a mobile communication unit in each preferred embodiment digital cellular radio communication system.

FIGs. 5-1, 5-2 show flowcharts of how a signal travels from a mobile communication unit to a cellular communication network unit in each preferred embodiment digital cellular radio communication system.

Detailed Description

Referring now to FIG. 1-1, a preferred embodiment digital cellular radio communication system 100 having remote repeaters 102 is shown. The communication system 100 includes at least one central communication site 104. The central communication site 104 contains
5 an antenna tower 106 and a site equipment storage unit 108. As shown in FIG. 2-1, the site equipment storage unit 108 preferably includes a transceiver mechanism 110, communication unit 114, and a processor apparatus 112.

The transceiver mechanism 110 is operably connected to the
10 antenna tower 106 to which an antenna 116 is preferably mounted so that the transceiver 110 can transmit and receive signals in a first radio channel through antenna 116. Antenna 116 may be an omni-directional antenna, sectorized antenna array, or a narrow beam antenna. It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the best
15 type of antennae varies depending on the particular installation environments. In the preferred embodiment antenna 116 is an omni-directional antenna. In addition, it will be well understood by those skilled in the art that a radio channel refers to a pair of channel bands used for a communication link by two communication devices. For the
20 following discussion this pair of channel bands will be designated from the perspective of the central communication site 104. More precisely, the portion of the first radio channel used for transmitting messages to the central communication site 104 will be designated as the inbound portion of the first channel. Similarly, the portion of the first radio
25 channel used for transmitting messages from the central communication site 104 will be designated as the outbound portion of the first channel. It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the first radio channel may be any one of several types of radio channels including, but not limited to, code division channels (e.g., direct sequence and
30 frequency hopping spread spectrum channels), time division channels (e.g., GSM-based channels), and frequency division channels. For simplicity, the remainder of the detailed description will be described using frequency divided channels. The preferred embodiment transceiver mechanism 110 preferably is capable of transmitting a
35 signal in the outbound portion of the first radio channel and is capable of receiving a signal in the inbound portion of the first radio channel.

The communication unit 114 preferably is operably connected to a cellular communication network unit 120 such that the unit 120 can transmit signals to and receive signals from the network unit 120. The communication network unit 114 may be a base communication site controller, another central communication site or a communication system switch (e.g., PSTN switch).

Processor apparatus 112 is operatively coupled to the transceiver mechanism 110 and the communication unit 114 such that the processor 112 can digitally process a signal received by either the transceiver 110 or the communication unit 114 and subsequently provide the processed signal to the device which did not send the signal to the processor 112 (i.e., either the transceiver 110 or the communication unit 114).

The communication system 100 also includes at least one remote communication site 102 which is substantially remotely located from the central communication site 104. The remote communication site 102 contains an antenna tower 122 and a site equipment storage unit 124. As shown in FIG. 3-1, the site equipment storage unit 124 preferably includes a first transceiver mechanism 126, a channel shifting device 128, and a second transceiver mechanism 130.

The first transceiver mechanism 126 is operably connected to the antenna tower 122 to which an antenna 132 is preferably mounted so that the transceiver 126 can transmit and receive signals in the first radio channel through antenna 132. Antenna 132, like antenna 116, may be an omni-directional antenna, sectorized antenna array, or a narrow beam antenna. In the preferred embodiment antenna 132 is a narrow beam antenna configured such that a signal transmitted from antenna 132 will appear to the central communication site 104 to be from a mobile communication unit 136 within cell 1 and configured such that a signal transmitted by antenna 116 can be received at remote communication site 102. The use of the narrow beam (i.e., directional antenna) on an antenna tower 122 will typically result in a high quality radio link (possible even line of sight) between the central 104 and the remote 102 communication sites. The preferred embodiment first transceiver mechanism 126 preferably is capable of transmitting a signal in the inbound portion of the first radio channel and is capable of receiving a signal in the outbound portion of the first radio channel.

The second transceiver mechanism 130 is operably connected to the antenna tower 122 to which an antenna 134 is preferably mounted so that the transceiver 130 can transmit and receive signals in a second radio channel through antenna 134. Antenna 134, like antenna 116, may be an omni-directional antenna, sectorized antenna array, or a narrow beam antenna. In the preferred embodiment antenna 134 is an omni-directional antenna configured such that a signal transmitted from antenna 134 can be received by a mobile communication unit 138 within cell 2 and configured such that a signal transmitted by mobile communication unit 138 can be received at remote communication site 102. In addition, it will be well understood by those skilled in the art that the second radio channel, like the first radio channel, has a pair of channel bands designated from the perspective of the remote communication site 102. More precisely, the portion of the second radio channel used for transmitting messages to the remote communication site 102 will be designated as the inbound portion of the second channel. Similarly, the portion of the second radio channel used for transmitting messages from the remote communication site 102 will be designated as the outbound portion of the second channel. Also, like the first radio channel, the discussion will focus on frequency divided channels even though other types of radio channels may be used without departed from the scope and spirit of the present invention. The preferred embodiment second transceiver mechanism 130 preferably is capable of transmitting a signal in the outbound portion of the second radio channel and is capable of receiving a signal in the inbound portion of the second radio channel.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the functionality of transceivers 126 and 130 could be incorporated into a single transceiver mechanism. Similarly, function performed by antenna 132 and 134 could be provided by a single antenna. These two possible combinations of elements in remote communication site 102 could be readily implemented if TDMA or CDMA type radio channels were used such that two or more time slots of a time frame or two or more code divided channels in a wide band signal burst could be transmitted or received by a single set of devices.

The channel shifting device 128 shifts the received signal between the first and the second radio channels. The channel shifting

device 128 shifts a received signal in the inbound portion of the second radio channel to the inbound portion of the first radio channel. Likewise, the channel shifting device 128 shifts a received signal in the outbound portion of the first radio channel to the outbound portion of the second radio channel. The channel shifting device 128 may also include an automatic gain control circuitry for adjusting the gain of the received signal to a predetermined power level. This gain control circuitry would insure that a signal transmitted by the first and/or the second transceiver mechanism 126, 130 would have adequate signal power. Thus, when mobile communication unit 138 is near the remote communication site 104, the transmitted signal power could be attenuated. In addition, when mobile communication unit 138 is far from the remote communication site 104, the transmitted signal power could be increased.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that substantial cost savings in the cellular communication system infrastructure can be achieved through the use of these preferred embodiment remote communication sites 102. This cost savings is due in part to the elimination of processor 112 and communication unit 114 as well as the associated connections to a cellular communication network unit 120.

The communication system 100 also includes mobile communication unit 136 or 138 which is substantially remotely located from the central communication site 104 and substantially remotely located from the remote communication site 102. The mobile communication unit 136, 138 contains transceiver mechanism. The transceiver mechanism preferably is operably configured transmit and receive signals in the first and the second radio channels. The preferred embodiment mobile unit transceiver mechanism preferably is capable of receiving a signal in the outbound portion of either the first or the second radio channels, determining in which radio channels the signal was received, and transmitting a signal in the inbound portion of the determined radio channel. Thus, the mobile transceiver can directly communicate with the first transceiver 110 of the central communication site 104 and the second 130 transceiver of the remote communication site 102.

One particularly important aspect of using remote communication sites (e.g., site 102) which frequency shift and repeat a signal transmitted by a central communication site (e.g., site 104) is communication channel reuse.

- 5 The specific first and second radio channels preferably are assigned according to a cellular communication system channel reuse plan based upon a channel reuse pattern (e.g., 3-site, 4-site, 7-site, 21-site, 49-site, 63-site or 91-site channel reuse patterns). Depending on the particular channel reuse plan used, the radio channel assigned to the first radio channel may be substantially similar to the radio channel assigned to the second radio channel. Also, the radio channel assigned to the first radio channel may be substantially different from the radio channel assigned to the second radio channel.

- 15 Each central communication site 104 can be configured to extend communication traffic control to remote communication sites in each of the surrounding cells (i.e., cell 2-cell 7). Depending upon the particular channel reuse plan used, the radio channel assigned to the first radio channel (associated with the central communication site 104) may be substantially similar to or different from the radio channel assigned to the second radio channel (associated with the remote communication site 102) and may be substantially similar to or different from the radio channel assigned to the other second radio channels (associated with the other remote communication sites found in cells 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 which are also served by the central communication site 104).

- 25 For example, each served remote site may operate with respect to a second radio channel which is assigned according to the cellular communication system channel reuse plan and is substantially different from the first radio channel and is substantially different from the second radio channel assigned to each other remote communication site.

- 30 Further, each served remote site may operate with respect to a second radio channel which is assigned according to the cellular communication system channel reuse plan and is substantially different from the first radio channel and is substantially similar to the second radio channel assigned to each other remote communication site.

35 Furthermore, each remote site may operate with respect to a second radio channel which is assigned according to the cellular

communication system channel reuse plan and is substantially similar to the first radio channel and is substantially similar to the second radio channel assigned to each other remote communication site.

5 Finally, each remote site may operate with respect to a second radio channel which is assigned according to the cellular communication system channel reuse plan and is substantially similar to the first radio channel and is substantially different from the second radio channel assigned to each other remote communication site.

10 By way of example, FIG. 4-1 shows flowchart describing how a signal preferably travels from the cellular communication network unit 120 to mobile communication unit 138. The process begins 200 at a cellular communication network unit 120 when a signal is sent to a central communication site 104. The central communication site 104 receives 202 the signal from the cellular communication network unit 120. The central communication site 102 digitally processes 204 the received signal. In addition, a first radio channel is assigned 206 according to a cellular communication system channel reuse plan to the central communication site 104. This first radio channel has inbound and outbound radio channel portions. The central communication site 20 104 transmits 208 the processed signal in the outbound portion of the first radio channel. Subsequently, a remote communication site 102, which is substantially remotely located from the central communication site 104, receives 210 the transmitted signal in the outbound portion of the first radio channel. In addition, a second radio channel is assigned 25 212 according to the cellular communication system channel reuse plan to the remote communication site 102. This second radio channel also has inbound and outbound radio channel portions. Subsequently, the received signal is channel shifted 214 from the first radio channel to the second radio channel at the remote communication site 102. The 30 gain of the shifted signal is adjusted 215 to a predetermined power level. Then, the remote communication site 102 transmits 216 the shifted signal in the outbound portion of the second radio channel. Finally, the shifted signal is received 218 in the outbound portion of the second radio channel at a mobile communication unit 138 which ends 35 220 the process.

By way of example, FIG. 5-1 shows flowchart describing how a signal preferably travels from mobile communication unit 138 to the

cellular communication network unit 120. The process begins 230 at a mobile communication unit 138. A first radio channel is assigned 232 according to a cellular communication system channel reuse plan to a central communication site 104. The first radio channel has inbound and outbound radio channel portions. A second radio channel is assigned 234 according to the cellular communication system channel reuse plan to a remote communication site 102 which is substantially remotely located from the central communication site 104. The second radio channel has inbound and outbound radio channel portions. The mobile communication unit 138 transmits 236 a signal in the inbound portion of the second radio channel. The remote communication site 102 receives 238 the signal in the inbound portion of the second radio channel. Subsequently, the received signal is channel shifted 240 from the second radio channel to the first radio channel at the remote communication site 102. The gain of the shifted signal is adjusted 242 to a predetermined power level. Then, the remote communication site 102 transmits 244 the shifted signal in the inbound portion of the first radio channel. The central communication site 104 receives 246 the transmitted signal in the inbound portion of the first radio channel. The received signal is digitally processed 248 at the central communication site 104. Finally, the processed signal is transmitted 250 from the central communication site 104 to a cellular communication network unit 120 which ends 252 the process.

Referring now to FIG. 1-2, an alternative preferred embodiment digital cellular radio communication system 100 having remote repeaters 102 is shown. The communication system 100 includes at least one central communication site 104. The central communication site 104 contains an antenna tower 106 and a site equipment storage unit 108. As shown in FIG. 2-2, the site equipment storage unit 108 preferably includes a transceiver mechanism 110, transceiver mechanism 111, communication unit 114, and a processor apparatus 112.

The transceiver mechanism 110 is operably connected to the antenna tower 106 to which an antenna 118 is preferably mounted so that the transceiver 110 can transmit and receive signals in a first radio channel through antenna 118. Antenna 118 may be an omnidirectional antenna, sectorized antenna array, or a narrow beam

antenna. It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the best type of antennae varies depending on the particular installation environments. In the preferred embodiment antenna 118 is an omni-directional antenna. In addition, it will be well understood by those skilled in the art that a radio channel refers to a pair of channel bands used for a communication link by two communication devices. For the following discussion this pair of channel bands will be designated from the perspective of the central communication site 104. More precisely, the portion of the first radio channel used for transmitting messages to the central communication site 104 will be designated as the inbound portion of the first channel. Similarly, the portion of the first radio channel used for transmitting messages from the central communication site 104 will be designated as the outbound portion of the first channel. It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the first radio channel may be any one of several types of radio channels including, but not limited to, code division channels (e.g., direct sequence and frequency hopping spread spectrum channels), time division channels (e.g., GSM-based channels), and frequency division channels. For simplicity, the remainder of the detailed description will be described using frequency divided channels. The preferred embodiment transceiver mechanism 110 preferably is capable of transmitting a signal in the outbound portion of the first radio channel and is capable of receiving a signal in the inbound portion of the first radio channel.

The transceiver mechanism 111 (hereinafter cross-transceiver 111) is operably connected to the antenna tower 106 to which an antenna 116 is preferably mounted so that the cross-transceiver 111 can transmit and receive signals in a second radio channel through antenna 116. Antenna 116 may be an omni-directional antenna, sectorized antenna array, or a narrow beam antenna. In the preferred embodiment antenna 116 is an omni-directional antenna. In addition, the portion of the second radio channel used for transmitting messages to the central communication site 104 will be designated as the inbound portion of the second channel. Similarly, the portion of the second radio channel used for transmitting messages from the central communication site 104 will be designated as the outbound portion of the second channel. The preferred embodiment cross-transceiver mechanism 111 preferably is capable of transmitting a signal in the inbound portion of

the first radio channel and is capable of receiving a signal in the outbound portion of the first radio channel.

5 The use of two omni-directional antenna on an antenna tower 106 will typically result in some mutual interference. Thus, the two antenna 116, 118 must be mounted on the antenna tower 106 at differing heights and additional filtering in the transceivers 110, 111 may be needed to achieve a high quality radio links.

10 The communication unit 114 preferably is operably connected to a cellular communication network unit 120 such that the unit 120 can transmit signals to and receive signals from the network unit 120. The communication network unit 114 may be a base communication site controller, another central communication site or a communication system switch (e.g., PSTN switch).

15 Processor apparatus 112 is operatively coupled to the transceiver mechanism 110, the cross-transceiver mechanism 111 and the communication unit 114 such that the processor 112 can digitally process a signal received by either the transceiver 110, the cross-transceiver 111, or the communication unit 114 and subsequently provide the processed signal to one of the devices which did not send
20 the signal to the processor 112 (i.e., either the transceiver 110, cross-transceiver 111, or the communication unit 114).

The communication system 100 also includes at least one remote communication site 102 which is substantially remotely located from the central communication site 104. The remote communication
25 site 102 contains an antenna tower 122 and a site equipment storage unit 124. As shown in FIG. 3-2, the site equipment storage unit 124 preferably includes a first transceiver mechanism 126, a channel shifting device 128, and a second transceiver mechanism 130.

30 The first transceiver mechanism 126 is operably connected to the antenna tower 122 to which an antenna 132 is preferably mounted so that the transceiver 126 can transmit and receive signals in the first radio channel through antenna 132. Antenna 132, like antenna 116, may be an omni-directional antenna, sectorized antenna array, or a narrow beam antenna. In the preferred embodiment antenna 132 is an
35 omni-directional antenna configured such that a signal transmitted from antenna 132 will appear to the central communication site 104 to be from another central communication unit within cell 1 and configured

such that a signal transmitted by antenna 116 can be received at remote communication site 102. The preferred embodiment first transceiver mechanism 126 preferably is capable of transmitting a signal in the outbound portion of the first radio channel and is capable of receiving a signal in the inbound portion of the first radio channel.

The second transceiver mechanism 130 is operably connected to the antenna tower 122 to which an antenna 134 is preferably mounted so that the transceiver 130 can transmit and receive signals in a second radio channel through antenna 134. Antenna 134, like antenna 116, may be an omni-directional antenna, sectorized antenna array, or a narrow beam antenna. In the preferred embodiment antenna 134 is an omni-directional antenna configured such that a signal transmitted from antenna 134 can be received by a mobile communication unit 138 within cell 2 and configured such that a signal transmitted by mobile communication unit 138 can be received at remote communication site 102. The preferred embodiment second transceiver mechanism 130 preferably is capable of transmitting a signal in the outbound portion of the second radio channel and is capable of receiving a signal in the inbound portion of the second radio channel.

The use of two omni-directional antenna 132, 134 on an antenna tower 122 will typically result in some mutual interference. Thus, the two antenna 132, 134 must be mounted on the antenna tower 122 at differing heights and additional filtering in the transceivers 126, 130 may be needed to achieve a high quality radio links.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the functionality of transceivers 126 and 130 could be incorporated into a single transceiver mechanism. Similarly, function performed by antenna 132 and 134 could be provided by a single antenna. These two possible combinations of elements in remote communication site 102 could be readily implemented if TDMA or CDMA type radio channels were used such that two or more time slots of a time frame or two or more code divided channels in a wide band signal burst could be transmitted or received by a single set of devices.

The channel shifting device 128 shifts the received signal between the first and the second radio channels. The channel shifting device 128 shifts a received signal in the inbound portion of the first

radio channel to the outbound portion of the second radio channel. Likewise, the channel shifting device 128 shifts a received signal in the inbound portion of the second radio channel to the outbound portion of the first radio channel. The channel shifting device 128 may also
5 include an automatic gain control circuitry for adjusting the gain of the received signal to a predetermined power level. This gain control circuitry would insure that a signal transmitted by the first and/or the second transceiver mechanism 126, 130 would have adequate signal power. Thus, when mobile communication unit 138 is near the remote
10 communication site 104, the transmitted signal power could be attenuated. In addition, when mobile communication unit 138 is far from the remote communication site 104, the transmitted signal power could be increased.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that substantial
15 cost savings in the cellular communication system infrastructure can be achieved through the use of these preferred embodiment remote communication sites 102. This cost savings is due in part to the elimination of processor 112 and communication unit 114 as well as the associated connections to a cellular communication network unit
20 120.

The communication system 100 also includes mobile communication unit 136 or 138 which is substantially remotely located from the central communication site 104 and substantially remotely located from the remote communication site 102. The mobile
25 communication unit 136, 138 contains transceiver mechanism. The transceiver mechanism preferably is operably configured transmit and receive signals in the first and the second radio channels. The preferred embodiment mobile unit transceiver mechanism preferably is capable of receiving a signal in the outbound portion of either the first or the second
30 radio channels, determining in which radio channels the signal was received, and transmitting a signal in the inbound portion of the determined radio channel. Thus, the mobile transceiver can directly communicate with the first transceiver 110 of the central communication site 104 and the first 126 and the second 130 transceiver of the remote
35 communication site 102.

One particularly important aspect of using remote communication sites (e.g., site 102) which frequency shift and repeat a signal

transmitted by a central communication site (e.g., site 104) is communication channel reuse.

The specific first and second radio channels preferably are assigned according to a cellular communication system channel reuse plan
5 based upon a channel reuse pattern (e.g., 3-site, 4-site, 7-site, 21-site, 49-site, 63-site or 91-site channel reuse patterns). Depending on the particular channel reuse plan used, the radio channel assigned to the first radio channel may be substantially similar to the radio channel assigned to the second radio channel. Also, the radio channel assigned
10 to the first radio channel may be substantially different from the radio channel assigned to the second radio channel.

Each central communication site 104 can be configured to extend communication traffic control to remote communication sites in each of the surrounding cells (i.e., cell 2-cell 7). Depending upon the
15 particular channel reuse plan used, the radio channel assigned to the first radio channel (associated with the central communication site 104) may be substantially similar to or different from the radio channel assigned to the second radio channel (associated with the remote communication site 102) and may be substantially similar to or different
20 from the radio channel assigned to the other second radio channels (associated with the other remote communication sites found in cells 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 which are also served by the central communication site 104).

For example, each served remote site may operate with respect
25 to a second radio channel which is assigned according to the cellular communication system channel reuse plan and is substantially different from the first radio channel and is substantially different from the second radio channel assigned to each other remote communication site.

Further, each served remote site may operate with respect to a
30 second radio channel which is assigned according to the cellular communication system channel reuse plan and is substantially different from the first radio channel and is substantially similar to the second radio channel assigned to each other remote communication site.

Furthermore, each remote site may operate with respect to a
35 second radio channel which is assigned according to the cellular communication system channel reuse plan and is substantially similar to

the first radio channel and is substantially similar to the second radio channel assigned to each other remote communication site.

Finally, each remote site may operate with respect to a second radio channel which is assigned according to the cellular communication system channel reuse plan and is substantially similar to the first radio channel and is substantially different from the second radio channel assigned to each other remote communication site.

By way of example, FIG. 4-2 shows flowchart describing how a signal preferably travels from the cellular communication network unit 120 to mobile communication unit 138. The process begins 200 at a cellular communication network unit 120 when a signal is sent to a central communication site 104. The central communication site 104 receives 202 the signal from the cellular communication network unit 120. The central communication site 102 digitally processes 204 the received signal. In addition, a first radio channel is assigned 206 according to a cellular communication system channel reuse plan to the central communication site 104. This first radio channel has inbound and outbound radio channel portions. The central communication site 104 transmits 208' the processed signal in the inbound portion of the first radio channel. Subsequently, a remote communication site 102, which is substantially remotely located from the central communication site 104, receives 210' the transmitted signal in the inbound portion of the first radio channel. In addition, a second radio channel is assigned 212 according to the cellular communication system channel reuse plan to the remote communication site 102. This second radio channel also has inbound and outbound radio channel portions. Subsequently, the received signal is channel shifted 214 from the first radio channel to the second radio channel at the remote communication site 102. The gain of the shifted signal is adjusted 215 to a predetermined power level. Then, the remote communication site 102 transmits 216 the shifted signal in the outbound portion of the second radio channel. Finally, the shifted signal is received 218 in the outbound portion of the second radio channel at a mobile communication unit 138 which ends 220 the process.

By way of example, FIG. 5-2 shows flowchart describing how a signal preferably travels from mobile communication unit 138 to the cellular communication network unit 120. The process begins 230 at a

mobile communication unit 138. A first radio channel is assigned 232 according to a cellular communication system channel reuse plan to a central communication site 104. The first radio channel has inbound and outbound radio channel portions. A second radio channel is assigned 234 according to the cellular communication system channel reuse plan to a remote communication site 102 which is substantially remotely located from the central communication site 104. The second radio channel has inbound and outbound radio channel portions. The mobile communication unit 138 transmits 236 a signal in the inbound portion of the second radio channel. The remote communication site 102 receives 238 the signal in the inbound portion of the second radio channel. Subsequently, the received signal is channel shifted 240 from the second radio channel to the first radio channel at the remote communication site 102. The gain of the shifted signal is adjusted 242 to a predetermined power level. Then, the remote communication site 102 transmits 244 the shifted signal in the outbound portion of the first radio channel. The central communication site 104 receives 246 the transmitted signal in the outbound portion of the first radio channel. The received signal is digitally processed 248 at the central communication site 104. Finally, the processed signal is transmitted 250 from the central communication site 104 to a cellular communication network unit 120 which ends 252 the process.

Although the invention has been described and illustrated with a certain degree of particularity, it is understood that the present disclosure of embodiments has been made by way of example only and that numerous changes in the arrangement and combination of parts as well as steps may be resorted to by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

Although the invention has been described and illustrated with a certain degree of particularity, it is understood that the present disclosure of embodiments has been made by way of example only and that numerous changes in the arrangement and combination of parts as well as steps may be resorted to by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A digital cellular radio communication system having a remote
repeater, comprising:
- 10 (a) central communication site, comprising:
- (i) transceiver means for transmitting a signal in a first
 portion of a first radio channel and receiving a
15 signal in a second portion of the first radio channel,
 the first radio channel being assigned according to
 a cellular communication system channel reuse
 plan;
- (ii) communicating means for transmitting signals to
 and receiving signals from a cellular communication
 network unit; and
- (iii) processing means, operatively coupled to the
20 transceiver means and the communicating means,
 for digitally processing a signal received by either of
 the transceiver means and the communicating
 means and subsequently providing the processed
 signal to the other of the transceiver means and the
 communicating means; and
- 25 (b) remote communication site, substantially remotely located
 from the central communication site, comprising:
- (i) means for receiving a signal in the first portion of the
 first radio channel, channel shifting the received
 signal between the first and the second radio
30 channels, and transmitting the shifted signal in an
 outbound portion of a second radio channel
 assigned according to the cellular communication
 system channel reuse plan; and
- (ii) means for receiving a signal in an inbound portion
35 of the second radio channel, channel shifting the
 received signal between the second and the first
 radio channels, and transmitting the shifted signal in
 the second portion of the first radio channel.

2. The communication system of claim 1 wherein:
- (a) the first portion of the first radio channel comprises the
outbound portion of the first radio channel; and
- 5 (b) the second portion of the first radio channel comprises the
inbound portion of the first radio channel.
3. The communication system of claim 1 wherein:
- (a) the first portion of the first radio channel comprises the
10 inbound portion of the first radio channel; and
- (b) the second portion of the first radio channel comprises the
outbound portion of the first radio channel.
4. The communication system of claim 1 further comprising a mobile
15 communication unit substantially remotely located from the
central communication site and the remote communication site,
the mobile communication unit comprising transceiver means for
receiving a signal in an outbound portion of one of a first and a
20 second radio channels, determining in which of the first and
second radio channels the signal was received, and transmitting
a signal in an inbound portion of the determined radio channel.

5. In a digital cellular radio communication system, a method for providing remote repeating of a signal, comprising:
- (a) receiving, at a central communication site, a signal from a cellular communication network unit;
 - 5 (b) digitally processing the received signal at the central communication site;
 - (c) assigning a first radio channel according to a cellular communication system channel reuse plan to the central communication site;
 - 10 (d) transmitting, from the central communication site, the processed signal in a particular portion of the first radio channel;
 - (e) receiving, at a remote communication site which is substantially remotely located from the central
15 communication site, the transmitted signal in the particular portion of the first radio channel;
 - (f) assigning a second radio channel according to the cellular communication system channel reuse plan to the remote communication site, the second radio channel having
20 inbound and outbound portions;
 - (g) channel shifting the received signal from the first radio channel to the second radio channel at the remote communication site; and
 - 25 (h) transmitting, from the remote communication site, the shifted signal in the outbound portion of the second radio channel.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the first radio channel comprises an inbound and an outbound portion and wherein the particular
30 portion of the first radio channel comprises the outbound portion of the first radio channel.
7. The method of claim 5 wherein the first radio channel comprises an inbound and an outbound portion and wherein the particular
35 portion of the first radio channel comprises the inbound portion of the first radio channel.

8. In a digital cellular radio communication system, a method for providing a remote repeating of a signal, comprising:
- (a) assigning a first radio channel according to a cellular communication system channel reuse plan to a central communication site;
 - (b) assigning a second radio channel according to the cellular communication system channel reuse plan to a remote communication site which is substantially remotely located from the central communication site, the second radio channel having inbound and outbound portions;
 - (c) receiving, at the remote communication site, a signal in the inbound portion of the second radio channel;
 - (d) channel shifting the received signal from the second radio channel to the first radio channel at the remote communication site; and
 - (e) transmitting, from the remote communication site, the shifted signal in a particular portion of the first radio channel;
 - (f) receiving, at the central communication site, the transmitted signal in the particular portion of the first radio channel;
 - (g) digitally processing the received signal at the central communication site; and
 - (h) transmitting, from the central communication site, the processed signal to a cellular communication network unit.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the first radio channel comprises an inbound and an outbound portion and wherein the particular portion of the first radio channel comprises the outbound portion of the first radio channel.
10. The method of claim 8 wherein the first radio channel comprises an inbound and an outbound portion and wherein the particular portion of the first radio channel comprises the inbound portion of the first radio channel.

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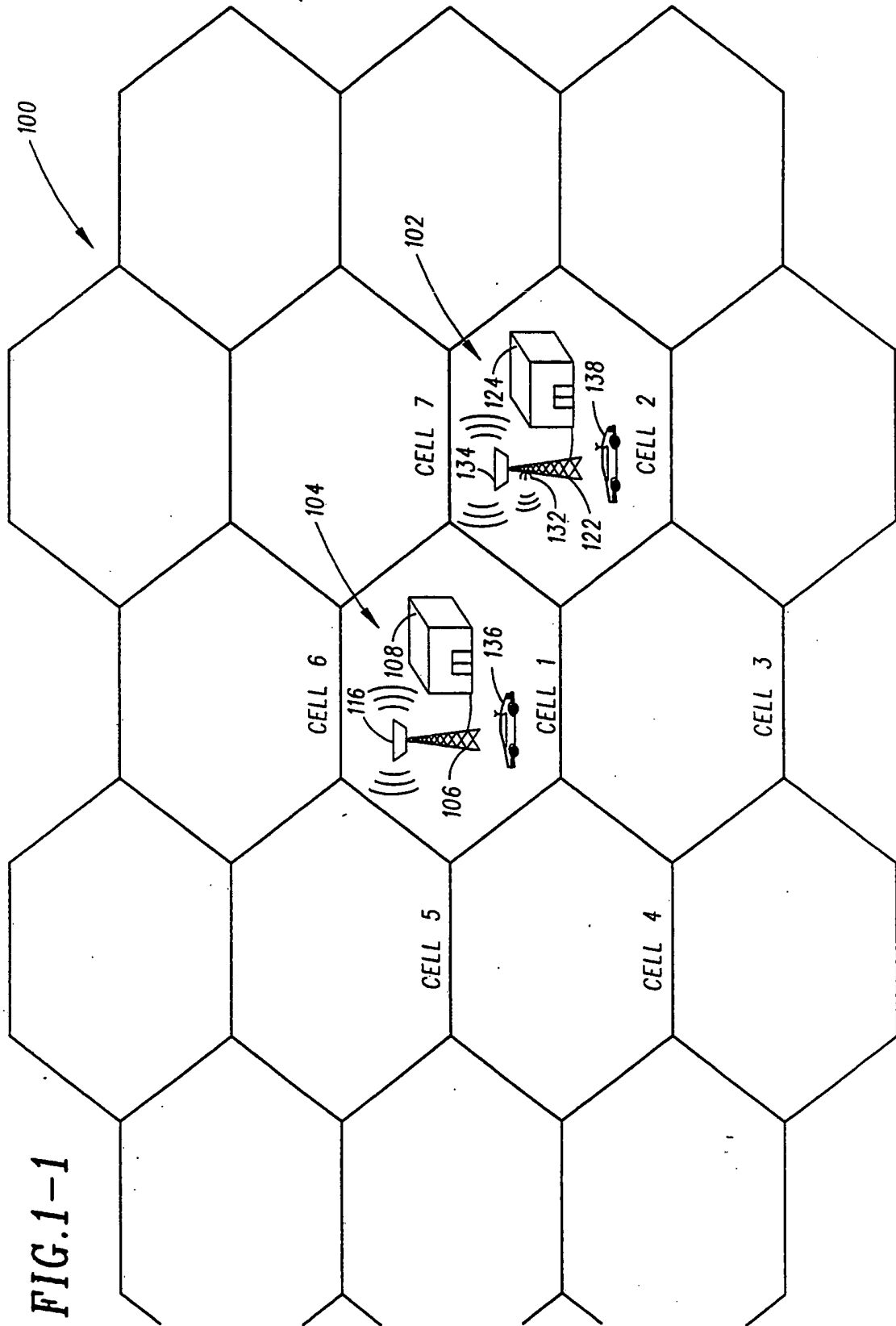


FIG.1-1

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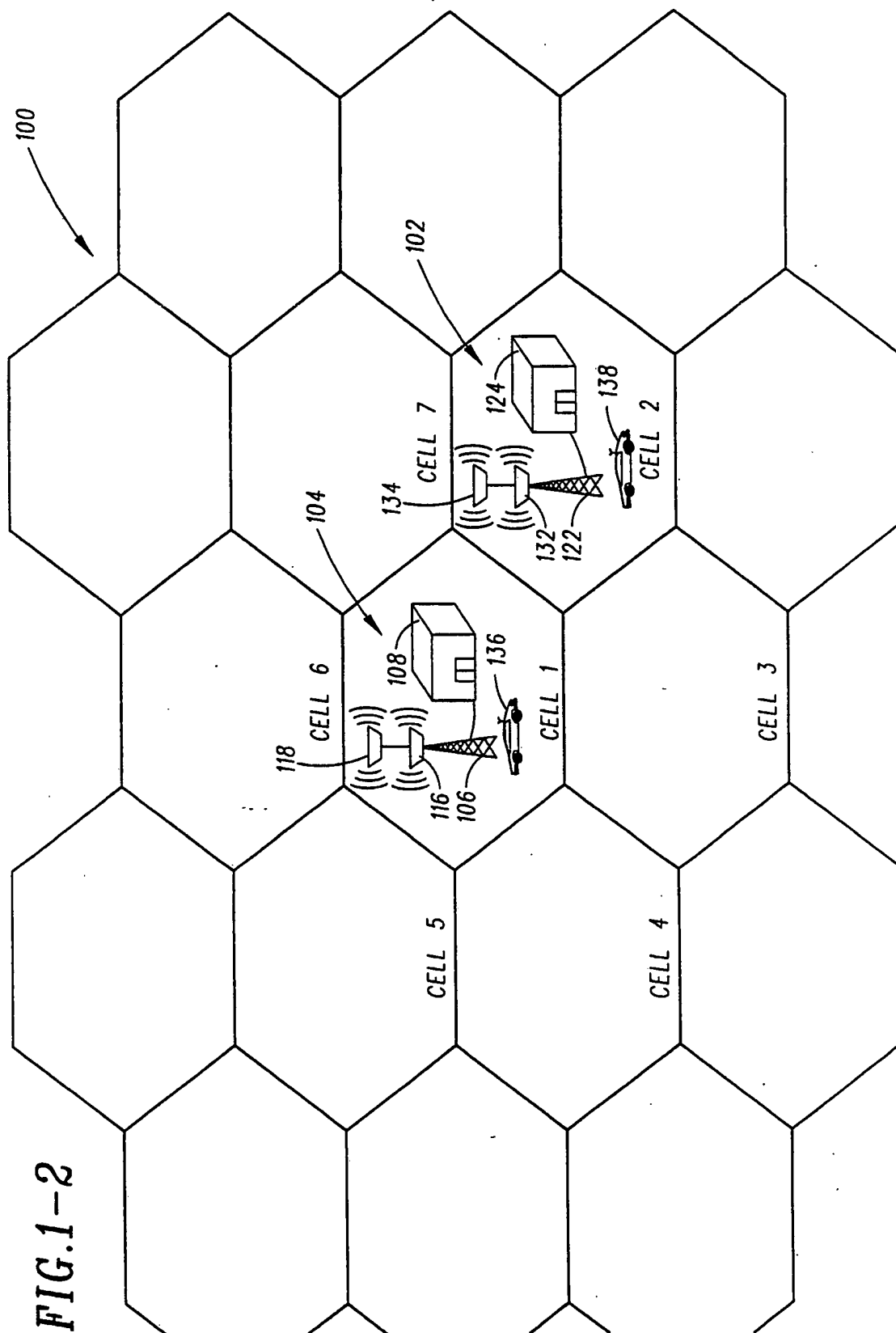


FIG.1-2

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FIG.2-1

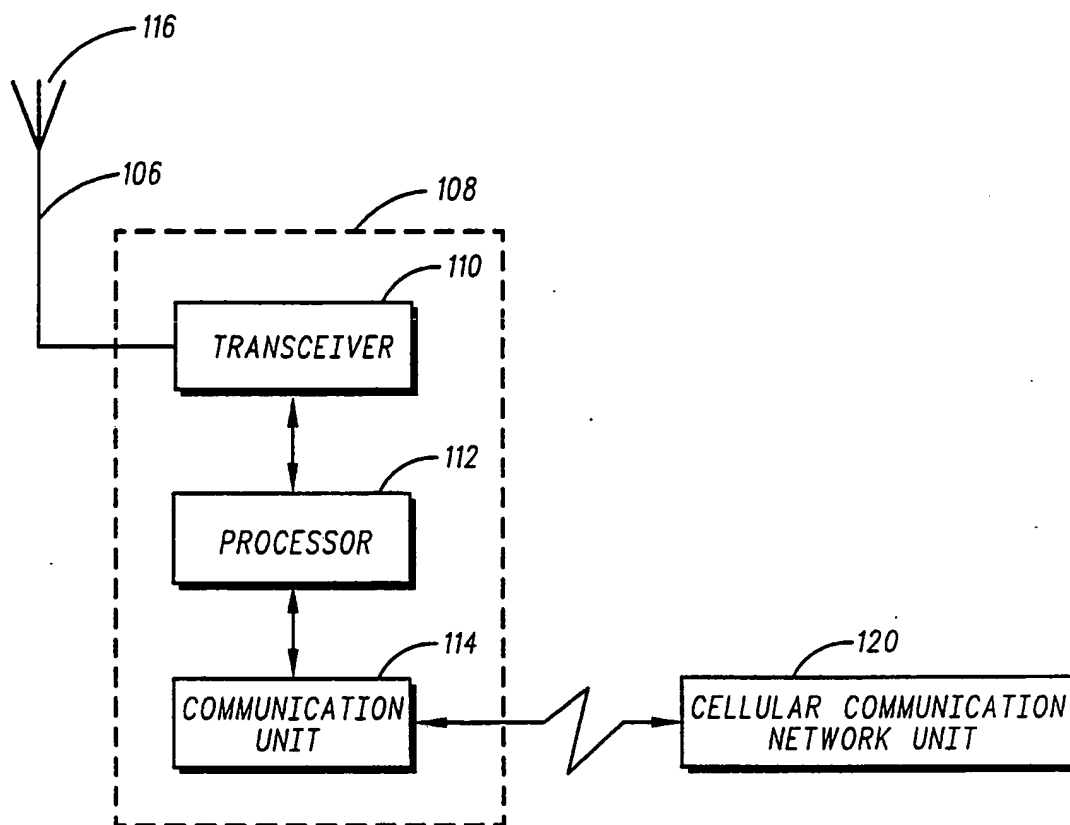
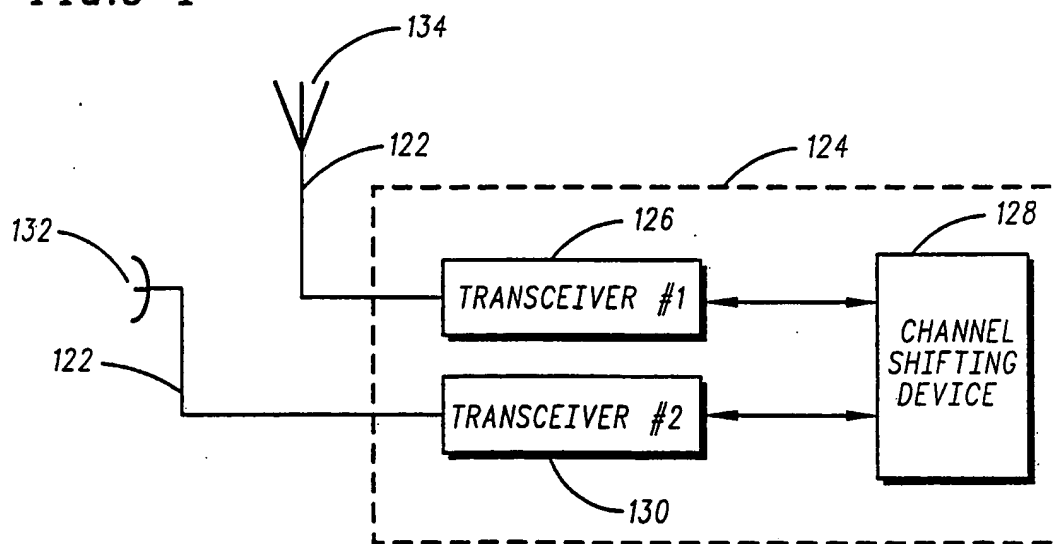


FIG.3-1



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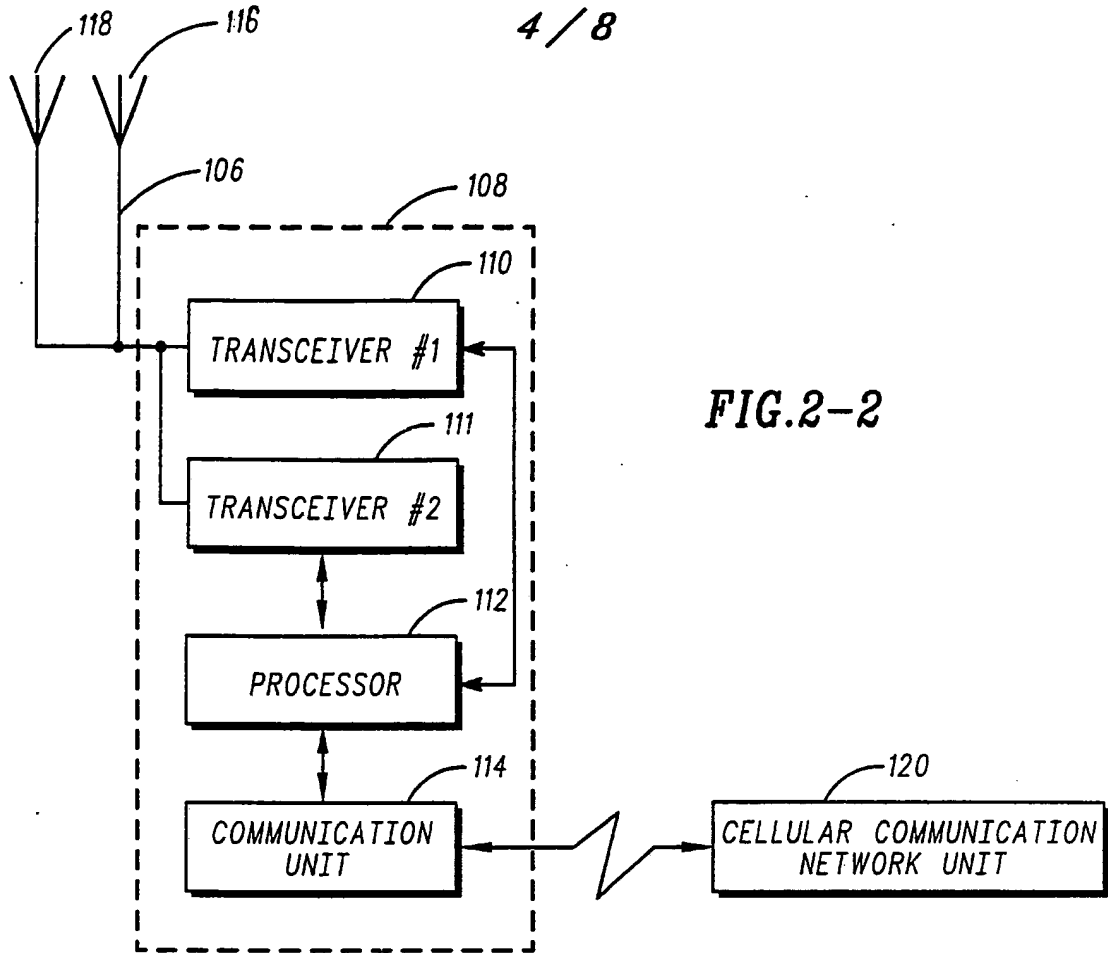
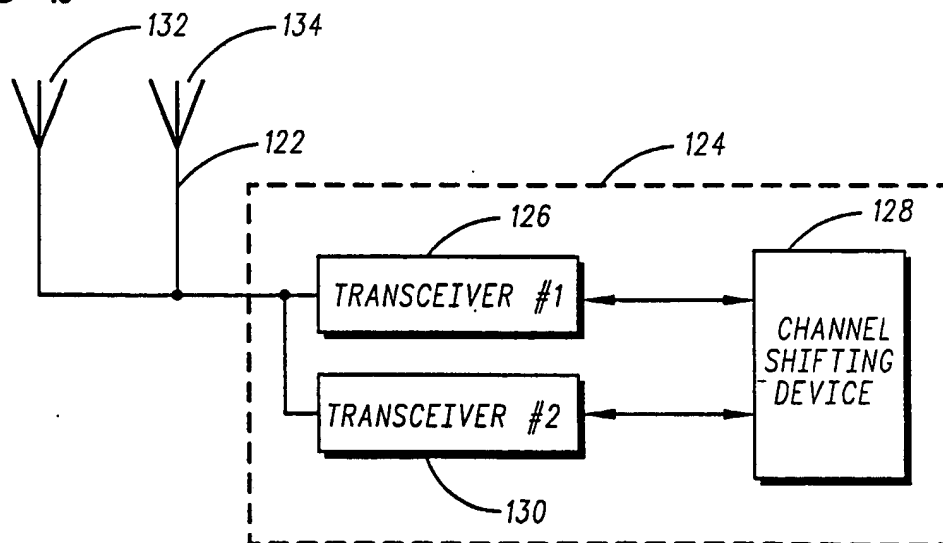
**FIG.3-2**

FIG. 4-1

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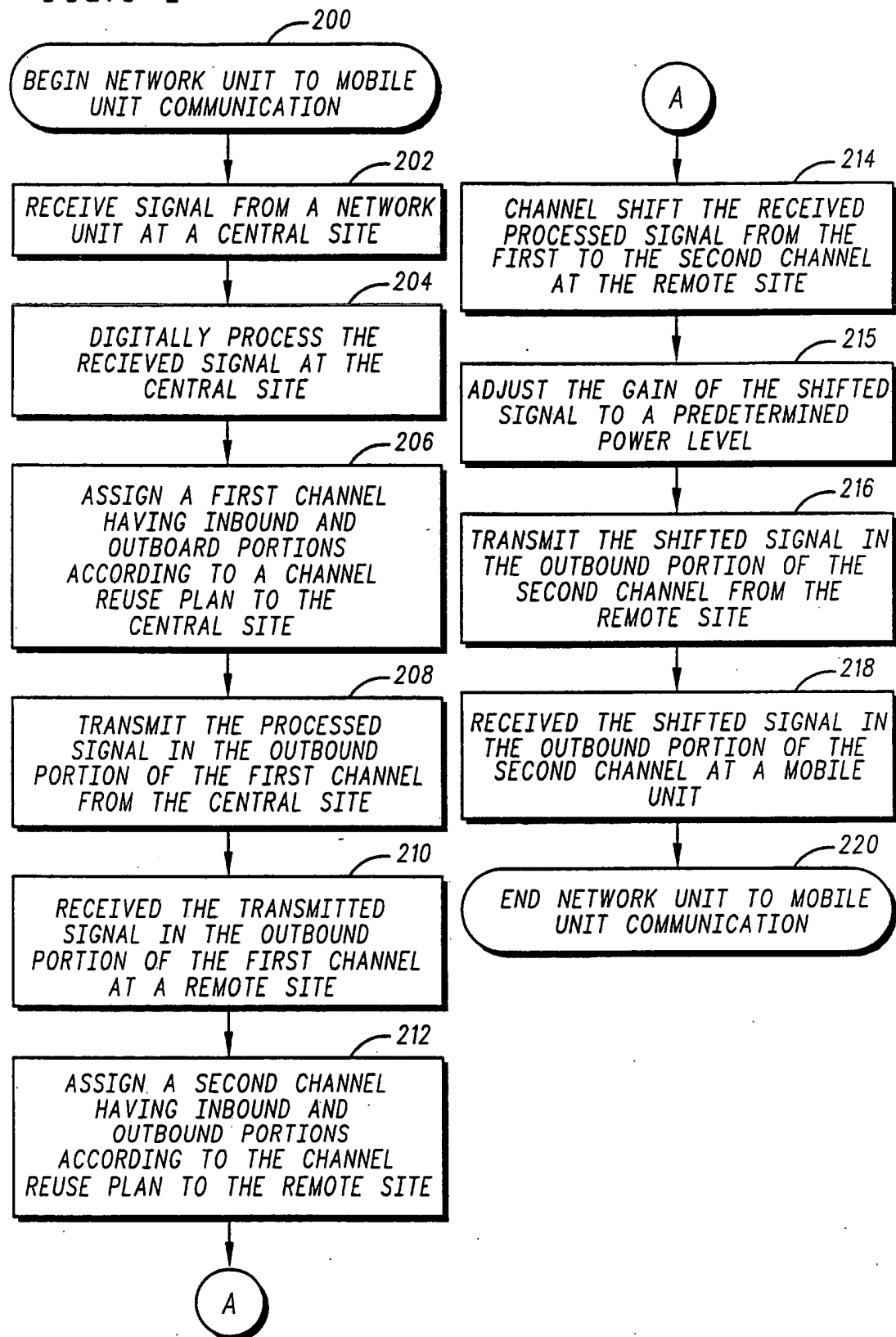
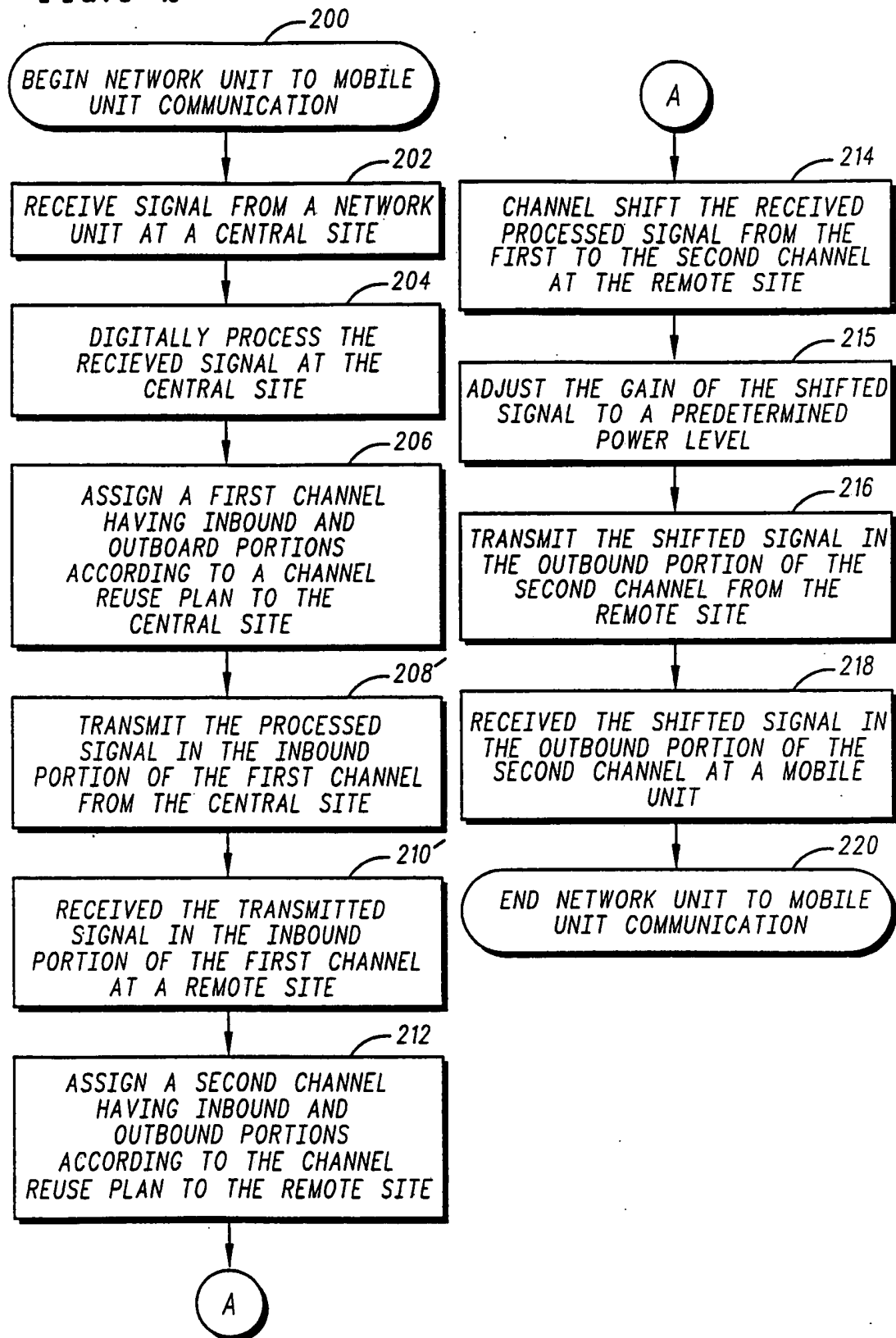


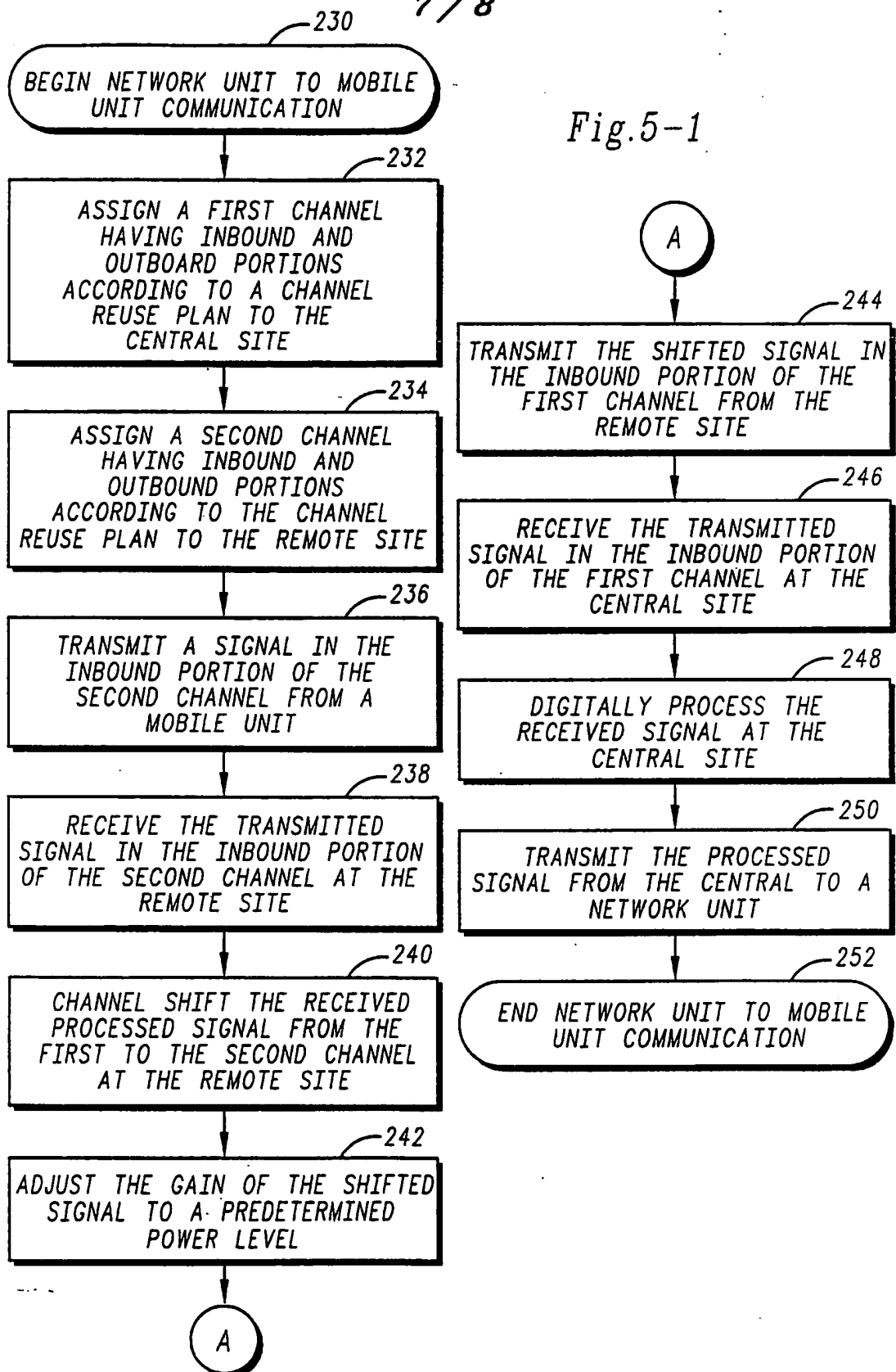
FIG. 4-2

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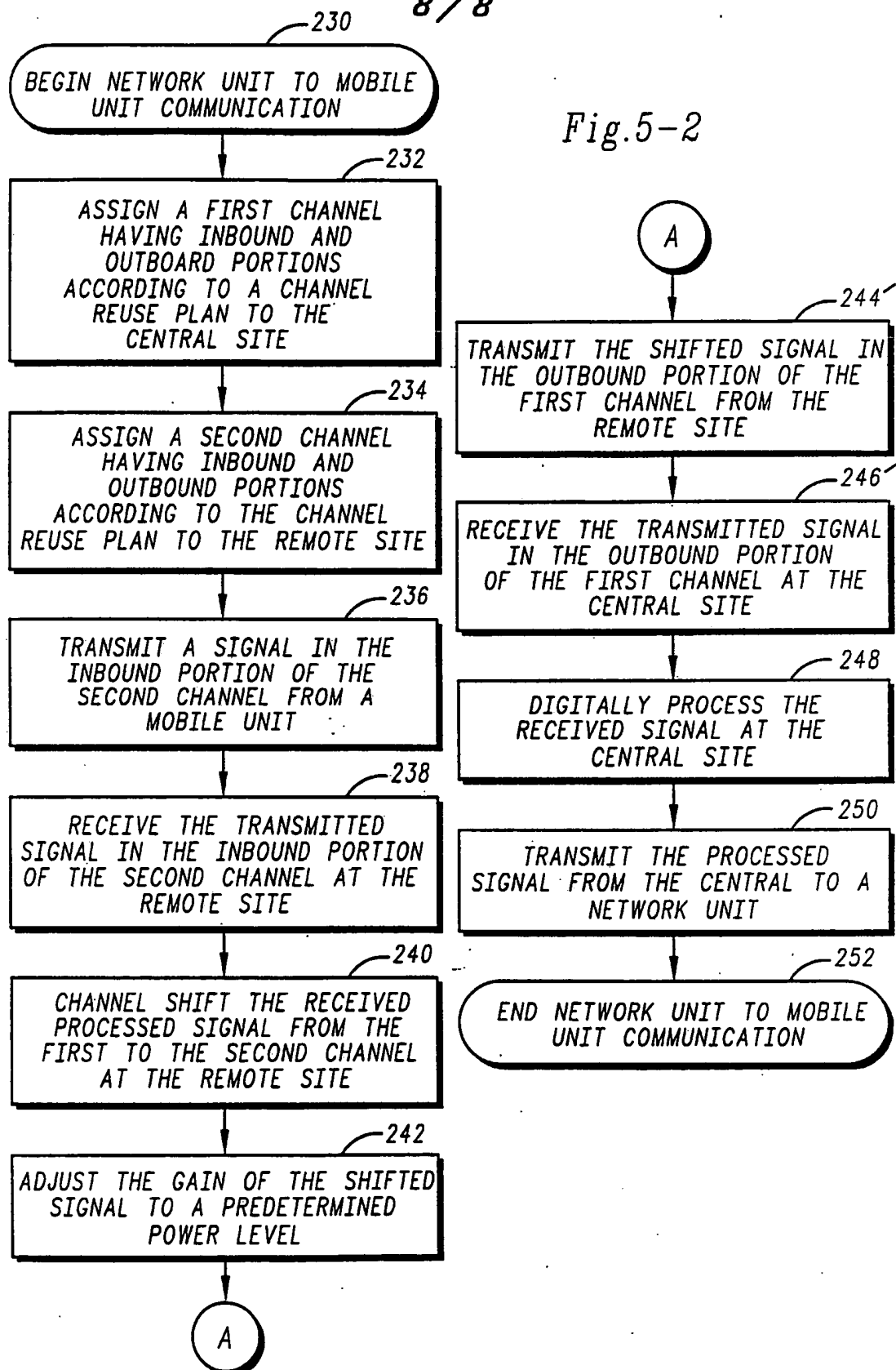
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Fig.5-1



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Fig.5-2



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US93/02535

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(5) :H04Q 7/00 US CL :455/33.1 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 455/33.2, 54.1, 54.2, 56.1, 11.1, 20, 234.1 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US, A, 4,718,108 (Davidson et al) 05 January 1988, See column 2, paragraphs 6-7.	1-10
Y	US, A, 5,038,399 (Bruckert) 06 August 1991, See column 3, line 45 - column 4, line 19.	1-10
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* "A" "E" "L" "O" "P"	Special categories of cited documents: document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be part of particular relevance earlier document published on or after the international filing date document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" "X" "Y" "&" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search 29 MAY 1993		Date of mailing of the international search report 30 JUN 1993
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. NOT APPLICABLE		Authorized officer Philip J. Sobutka INTERNATIONAL DIVISION Telephone No. (703) 305-4825